

## PREFATORY

WHAT it may be asked are the qualifications of the writer of this book for entering upon so difficult a subject ? I have travelled much and have enjoyed favourable opportunities of observing the behaviour and comparing the ideas of different races of mankind. And during many years of my life I have been occupied in the task of governing men—of inducing large numbers of both Europeans and Asiatics to carry out the desires of the State: and it is probable that in this business one gets a closer insight into the complicated working of human nature than by any other course of experience or study. So much for what is empirical in these discussions. For my psychology and evolutionary biology I am of course immensely indebted to the many able and eminent men who have written on these subjects, and especially to Professors William James, E. D. Cope, E. B. Tylor, W. McDougall, C. Lloyd-Morgan, F. W. Gamble, W. A. Bateson, R. C. Punnett, William Ridgeway, Karl Pearson, Sir Francis Galton, Houston Stewart Chamberlain, and MM. Gabriel Tarde, I. H. Fabre, and Henri Bergson.

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